

SHORELINE STRUCTURES DEFINITIONS

Town of Onalaska Shoreline Leased Land: Land owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Leased to Town of Onalaska including shorelines of Lake Onalaska, including backwaters of the Mississippi and Black Rivers within the Town of Onalaska. Hereby referred to as “leased land.”

Dock: Any private pier-like platform, floating or anchored, open and without sides, extending from leased land shorelines, that is used to secure, protect, and provide access to private recreational watercraft. Docks and walkways may not be more than 6 feet wide or less than 3 feet wide at any given point. Docks may not extend more than 50 feet into the water from the shoreline and may not exceed 300 square feet total. In areas where the navigation path is closer than 50 feet from the shoreline, docks **may be limited** to shorter lengths. Docks must be placed at least 50 feet away from the next closest dock. The site must be kept free of solid, debris, trash, or unusable equipment that could present an aesthetic or environmental intrusion. All structures must be maintained in a safe and presentable condition at all times. Kayaks racks may be attached to docks if the total width of the dock plus kayak does not exceed 6 feet.

** Existing docks that were properly permitted in the 2023-2025 permit cycle, not meeting the above and current criteria will be allowed to remain. Any upgrade or structural changes to existing docks that were properly permitted in the 2023-2025 will constitute a *new* dock and will be required to meet the above criteria. **

Boat Lift: A device or structure specifically designed to drive a boat onto which completely or partially lifts the vessel out of the water. Boat lifts include **shore mounted** boat skid and winch systems. Trailers, modified or otherwise, may not be used as boat lifts.

Shed: A simple roofed structure or box specifically constructed for outdoor storage space. Sheds may not exceed 6 feet in height or 50 square feet total. Sheds may not have appurtenances attached to the exterior to expand storage capabilities, including but not limited to, canoe and kayak storage racks. Town and County permitting regulations apply to sheds constructed on Leased Lands. Pre-built and/or structures on skids must be permitted (Town and County permitting regulations apply) and properly anchored to the ground.

Stairs: A set of steps that allows safe access from one elevation to another elevation. Building materials shall be of metal, wood, stone, or similar material that can be removed if required. Concrete, mortared block, brick or stone structures will not be permitted. All stairs, if painted, shall be painted a neutral color so that they will blend into the natural background. Trees shall not be used as anchoring devices. Stairs may not be more than 5 feet wide or less than 3 feet wide. Landings, patios, or seating areas on stairways will not be permitted. Town and County permitting regulations apply.

Disallowed structures: Examples of unauthorized structures include fire rings, fire pits, canoe/kayak racks (unless mounted to a dock without exceeding 6 feet in width when measuring the width of the dock plus attached kayak), gardens, landscaping, fencing, transplanting of vegetation onto or within the Leased land. Any structure not specifically permitted as a dock, boatlift, shed, or stairs including electrical installations. This is not an all-inclusive list.

**Existing electrical installations require a permit addendum and must be inspected and certified by a Wisconsin licensed electrician prior to shoreline structure permit issuance each permit cycle. All electrical installation certificates must be attached to permit application. **